

average annual rate of growth of bank credit to agriculture during 1980-81 to 1994-95 stood at 14.7 per cent whereas the annual rate of growth for industry (small, medium and large scale) stood at 15.9 per cent during the same period.

(c) RBI has further reported that the rate of growth of bank credit to a sector may vary depending on both the level of production of that particular sector as well as on its capacity to absorb additional credit. Since credit intensity of agriculture is different from industry, utility of comparative statistics of this kind is at best limited.

However, a number of steps have been taken to increase the flow of credit to agricultural sector which, inter alia, include :-

- (i) Within the overall target of 40 per cent to priority sector, 18 per cent of net bank credit is earmarked for agriculture. Public Sector Banks which have not achieved the agricultural lending sub-target of 18 per cent of net bank credit as on the last Friday of December, 1994, are required to make contributions to the Rural Infrastructural Development Fund equivalent to the short fall in achieving the sub-target subject to a maximum of 1.5 per cent of their net bank credit;
- (ii) Prescription of scales of finance for crop loans worked out for each district and their uniform adoption by banks;
- (iii) Disposal of loan applications upto Rs.25,000/- within a fortnight and those over Rs. 25,000/- within 8 to 9 weeks;
- (iv) Commercial banks to set up at least one specialised Agricultural Finance Branch in each State to deal with high tech agricultural loans;
- (v) Introduction of the Agricultural Credit Card for farmers with good track record to enable them to secure production credit from banks without procedural formalities each season; and
- (v) Delegation of appropriate sanctioning powers to the rural branch managers so that majority of loan applications from weaker sections are sanctioned at branch level itself.

Value of Imported Items

1167. SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the import value of major items such as petroleum, steel and capital goods has increased during 1995-96;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its impact on foreign trade; and

(c) the percentage of import of the above items/goods out of the total import in the country during 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). As per available data from DGCI&S the import values in dollar terms in respect of petroleum, steel and capital goods during 1995-96 are given below together with the percentage change over the previous year;

Import Value of Items	(US \$ Million)	
Commodities	1995-96	Percentage change over previous year
Petroleum	7537.43	27.15%
Steel	1478.83	27.10%
Capital Goods	5794.07	34.54%

(c) The value of imports in dollar terms of the above three items constituted around 40.7% of the total imports during 1995-96.

[English]

ADB Loan

1168. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether United States of America has put a ban on loan to be released to India from Asia Development Fund of Asian Development Bank;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any action has been taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). As India did not have access to the Asia Development Fund since its inception in 1974, the question of ban does not arise.

Drugs And Antiques Smuggling

1169. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the smuggling of drugs and antiques through Foreign Post Offices has come to the light;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of drugs and antique smuggling cases registered during 1995 and 1996; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to identify the racket involved?